

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/337,096

Examiner

Richard C. Weisberger

Applicant(s)

NICOLL ET AL.

Art Unit

3693

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to telephone interview of 8/09/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 33-36, 43 and 44.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 11/16/2006.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

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Claims 33-36 and 43-44 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art does not directly teach of an self service terminal comprising means for paying for *additional time* for an account of a telephone user. This is now reflected in the claim by a *means for receiving a request to credit service time*. As discussed in the specification and as amplified in the applicant's appeal brief, in this claimed invention, the self device terminal interface is limited to one to programmed to receive a request from a user to purchase additional telephone time to an account to which no bill exists. The examiner understands this to be what is known in the industry as a "prepaid" telephone account. The prior art fails to teach this means (i.e. a self service terminal comprising a processor programmed to display this interface).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Michael Chan on August 09, 2006

Claims 32, 39-42 and 45 are canceled.

33. A self-service terminal for enabling a telephone user to purchase additional telephone service time for a telephone service account, the self-service terminal comprising:

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interface means for receiving a request from the telephone user to credit service time to the telephone service account;

input receiving means for receiving account details associated with a the telephone service account from a the telephone user;

payment receiving means for receiving payment from a the telephone user to pay for purchase of additional telephone service time for a the telephone service account; and

control means for communicating with a remote system to credit service time to a the telephone service account identified by account details received from a the telephone user when payment is received from the telephone user.

34. A self-service terminal according to claim 33, wherein the payment receiving means includes means for receiving payment in the form of currency.

35. A self-service terminal according to claim 33, wherein the payment receiving means includes means for receiving payment in the form of credit.

36. A self-service terminal for allowing a mobile telephone service user to purchase additional mobile telephone service time for a mobile telephone service account, the self-service terminal comprising:

a first device for receiving a request from the mobile telephone service user to credit mobile telephone service time to the mobile telephone service account;

a ~~first~~ second device for receiving account details of the mobile telephone service account from the mobile telephone service user;

a ~~second~~ third device for receiving currency from the mobile telephone service user; and

a ~~third~~ fourth device for communicating with a remote information handling system to credit mobile telephone service time to the mobile telephone service account based upon account details of the mobile telephone service account received from the mobile telephone service user and the amount of currency received from the mobile telephone service user.

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43. A method of operating a self-service terminal for enabling a telephone user to purchase additional telephone service time for a telephone service account, the method comprising:

receiving a request from the telephone user to credit service time to the telephone service account;

receiving account details associated with a the telephone service account from a the telephone user;

receiving payment from a the telephone user to pay for purchase of additional telephone service time for a the telephone service account; and

communicating with a remote system to credit service time to a the telephone service account identified by account details received from a the telephone user when payment is received from the telephone user.

44. A method of operating a self-service terminal for allowing a mobile telephone service user to purchase additional mobile telephone service time for a mobile telephone service account, the method comprising:

receiving a request from the mobile telephone service user to credit mobile telephone service time to the mobile telephone service account;

receiving account details of the mobile telephone service account from the mobile telephone service user;

receiving currency from the mobile telephone service user; and

communicating with a remote information handling system to credit mobile telephone service time to the mobile telephone service account based upon account details of the mobile telephone service account received from the mobile

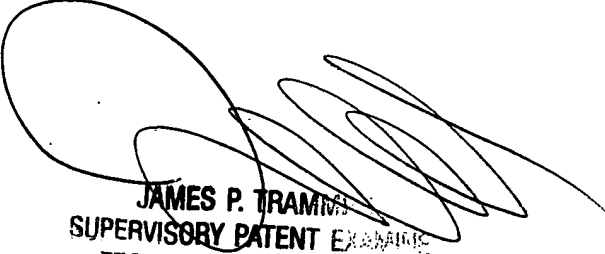
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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Richard C. Weisberger whose telephone number is 571 272 6753. The examiner can normally be reached between 6:30 AM to 10:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jim Trammel can be reached on 571 272 6712. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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